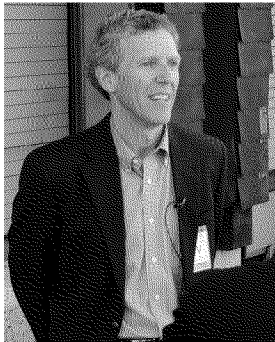




West Lake Update

May 6, 2014

From Regional Administrator Karl Brooks



On April 29, I received a letter from Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster suggesting that EPA conduct off-site soil sampling for radiological material associated with the leached barium sulfate waste buried at West Lake Landfill. EPA appreciates the Attorney General's recommendation.

One concern in the Attorney General's letter references haul routes that were used to bring the radiological material to West Lake Landfill. It is

important to note that soil sampling has already been conducted along potential haul routes from the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site to West Lake Landfill. This testing was conducted by the Department of Energy in the early 1990's as part of a Remedial Investigation. The resulting information was used by the St. Louis District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in its preparation of the 2005 Record of Decision for the North St. Louis County Sites. The haul route testing included the collection of 231 samples from 28 intersections along potential routes used to transport material to the West Lake Landfill. The samples were tested for Radium-226, Thorium-230, Thorium-232, and Uranium-238. None of the samples collected exhibited radionuclide concentrations exceeding the proposed surface and subsurface soil remediation goals identified in the 2005 Record of Decision. For detailed locations of the sampling, please refer to the map of potential haul routes and locations sampled at the following link: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/222422349/West-Lake-Landfill-Transportation-Routes>

On April 25, EPA Region 7 received information from a local resident, which suggested a potential radiation detection off-site at the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex. The individuals collected the soil from a drainage ditch and not from the ball fields. Usefulness of the information provided by the resident is limited due to the absence of quality assurance/quality control during the collection of the data.

Radiation occurs naturally in our environment and can be found in granite countertops, smoke detectors and watches, which in most cases do not pose harmful exposure risks. For more details see: <http://www.epa.gov/radtown/index.html>.

EPA's experts are carefully reviewing the information provided by the local resident. It should be emphasized that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) conducted scientifically valid radiation dust sampling near the ball fields in 2013. The results of this testing show that the area remains uncontaminated from radiologically impacted material (RIM) and the ball fields are suitable for use. The results of the state's sampling are available in the West Lake Landfill Radiological Survey Report,

Community Inquiries

Ben Washburn
913-551-7364
Washburn.Ben@epa.gov

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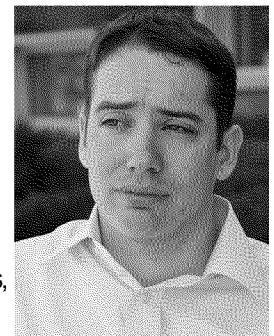
dated May 16, 2013, and available at the MDNR website: <https://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/fedfac/documents/2013-5-16-west-lake-rad-survey-reportl.pdf>

All validated information available to the state of Missouri and EPA indicates RIM remains confined to the site and that the site remains protective of public health.

EPA continues to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide oversight of the development of the work plans for the responsible parties' construction of the isolation barrier, and EPA also continues to work towards the selection of a long-term remedy for the site. As EPA continues developing our work plans we'll assess all available data and make determinations that will address any remaining testing requirements.

Meet Ben Washburn

Ben Washburn has worked in EPA Region 7's Office of Public Affairs since 2010 as a Community Involvement Coordinator and Press Officer. As a Community Involvement Coordinator, Ben conducts outreach with communities affected by Superfund sites throughout Region 7. Community involvement is the process of engaging in dialogue and collaboration with community members, encouraging community participation, keeping the community informed, and explaining to the community what EPA has done and why. In Ben's Press Officer role, he prepares news announcements regarding enforcement of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and other environmental regulations.



At the West Lake landfill site, Ben works closely with the Community Advisory Group (CAG) to provide support and assistance. He also works closely with other members of the community, answering questions, listening to feedback, and providing information.

Prior to joining EPA, Ben served four years in U.S. Army Public Affairs and spent time at Fort Riley, Kan.; Baghdad, Iraq; and Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras. He holds a bachelor's degree in History from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

The federal team working at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site isn't just EPA and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), based in Atlanta, Georgia, is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and an important part of the combined federal team working to protect public health at the site.

ATSDR serves the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and diseases related to toxic substances.

By partnering with EPA at West Lake landfill, ATSDR brings a wealth of health-based knowledge and expertise from which EPA can draw to ensure that the community's questions and concerns about potential health effects from the site and its contaminants are accurately and completely answered.

Find out more about ATSDR at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>